

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle optical ring network, comprising:

an optical data line configured in a ring network;

at least one data source connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink connected to the optical data line and comprising a video display device ~~playback transducer~~, and that receives the compressed multimedia data from the optical data line, where the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide (i) a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof to the video display ~~playback device~~ ~~transducer~~ and (ii) a decompressed audio signal;

where the at least one data sink also includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed multimedia data, where the format of the received compressed multimedia data may be one of a plurality of compression formats.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 67, where the bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder, a JPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder.

12. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 68, where the at least one data source comprises a DVD player connected to the optical data line and provides the compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line ~~includes a radio tuner.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 612, further comprising a second data source ~~that includes~~ a radio receiver that provides a DVD player connected to the optical data line and provides compressed audio data onto the optical data line.

14. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 1243, where the bit stream decoder is selectively configured as one of an MPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder in response to control signal data received by the bit stream decoder over the optical data line.

15. (Currently Amended) An optical ring network for a motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

an optical data line configured as a ring network;

a first data source comprising a radio receiver, that which is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed audio data onto the optical data line;

a second data source that is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed multimedia video-data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink that includes a video display device playback transducer and is connected to the optical data line, and that receives the compressed multimedia video-data and the compressed audio data from the optical data line, where the at least one data sink includes a first bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia video-data and provide (i) a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof for display by the video display device playback transducer, and where the at least one data sink includes a second bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed audio data and to provide (ii) a decompressed audio signal indicative thereof to a loudspeaker for playback by the at least one playback transducer, and where the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia video-data to a format of the received compressed video-multimedia data, where the format of the received compressed multimedia video-data includes one of a plurality of compression formats.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 15, where the second bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and AC-3 data.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 16, where the first bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and JPEG data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 18, where the second data source includes a digital video disc (DVD) player.

20. (Previously Presented) A motor vehicle network, comprising:

a ring network;

a first ~~at least one~~ data source connected within the ring network, and provides compressed multimedia data within the ring network;

a second data source connected within the ring network, where the second data source comprises a radio receiver that provides a received radio signal to an encoder that provides compressed audio data indicative thereof within the ring network; and

a first ~~at least one~~ data sink comprising a video display device playback transducer and connected within the ring network, and that receives the compressed multimedia data from within the ring network, where the first data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide corresponding decompressed video data to the video display device playback transducer via the ring network; and

a second data sink connected within the ring network, and which receives the compressed audio data and provides decompressed audio data indicative thereof;

where the first ~~at least one~~ data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed multimedia data.

21.(New) The motor vehicle network of claim 20, further comprising a loudspeaker that receives the decompressed audio data.

22. (New) The motor vehicle network of claim 20, where the bit stream decoder comprises an MPEG decoder.